

Amendments to the Specification

Please cancel the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 22 and ending on page 10, line 8, with the following replacement paragraph:

-- The low pressure air stream source 70a is activated and confined (step 310) within a shroud having a geometry matched to the mold insert's periphery. At the preferred clamping force of 70 to 85psi, the air stream is pressurized to between 60 and 80 psi and to a temperature between 100 and 130 degrees F. FIG. 5 shows the mold insert 50 as having a circular periphery. Accordingly, shroud 70 includes a matching circular shape at its open end 70b, or at a cross-section 70c somewhere along its height, as shown in FIG. 4. In one embodiment, shroud 70 is cylindrical, whereby it includes a circular geometry at all cross-sections 70c along its height as well as at its open end 70b. FIG. 5 shows the relationship between the lower portion of shroud 70 and mold insert 50. Mold insert 50 has a radius r (50a) from its central axis out to its periphery. Shroud 70 has a larger radius R (70e), measured from the same central axis. --

Please cancel the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 27 and ending on page 12, line 9, with the following replacement paragraph:

-- Also during step 310, a heated fluid medium is circulated through circulating channels 42a and 44a. In one embodiment, the heated medium flow passes along a single loop through sub-platform 44 and then through vented platform 42. A cooling fluid medium may be circulated through channels 48a. In combination with insulating plate 46, the lower platen is effectively insulated from the thermal heating of platforms 42 and 44. The heating of platforms 42 and 44 caused heating of the gap 42e 44c therebetween along with mold insert 50 and base member 52. Gap 42e 44c is in communication with vents 42b extending through the height of platform 42, as most clearly seen in FIG. 5. The heated medium may be in an operational temperature range of 100 degrees F to 200 degrees F, preferably between 115 degrees to 145 degrees F. Whereby the gap, mold insert and underside of the sheet may be heated to a temperature range of 80 to 180 degrees F, preferably 100 to 130 degrees F. The heated air stream from source 70a, may heat the topside of the sheet to a similar temperature range of 100 to 130 degrees F. --